IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Hubbell et al.	Art Unit: 1713
Serial No.:	09/644,121	
Filed:	August 23, 2000	Examiner: Henderson Jr., C.
For:	NOVEL POLYMER COMPOUNDS	
Docket No.:	314572-103C	

I, Arthur E. Jackson, Registration No. 34,354, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington DC 20231 on August 7, 2002

Arthur E. Jackson, Registration No. 34,354

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2002, this response and these comments are respectfully submitted. With the Petition for an Extension of Time (two month) enclosed, the present amendment is timely filed on or before August 8, 2002.

The Office Action sets forth a requirement to make an election of species. Applicant elects the polymer formed with the crosslinker labeled "(2)" at page 12 of the specification and acrylic acid. This election is made to facilitate an initial search, but it is anticipated that the entire scope of claim 1 can and will be searched without undue burden.

Previously, the undersigned committed to send a clean copy of claim 1 with the next response. That clean copy is:

1. (Amended) A composition comprising a pre-formed, hydrolytically susceptible non-addition polyanionic polymer comprising polymer strands formed from at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, wherein the polymer strands are linked by at least one linking moiety comprising a hydrolytically susceptible bond formed with a multidentate compound comprising two or more two or more ethylenically unsaturated moieties, each such moiety being linked to the multidentate compound through a hydrolytically susceptible bond, wherein at least one of which monomers has:

i) one or more functional groups that can be titrated with base to form negatively charged functional groups, or

ii) one or more precursor groups that are precursors of the functional groups that can be titrated with base; which precursor groups are converted to the functional groups;

wherein at least one of the ethylenically unsaturated monomers is according to the formula:

$(R^3)(R^2)C=C(R^1)$-X-Y

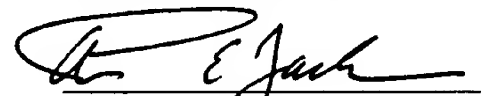
wherein:

Y is $-C(O)OR^4$; $-O-S(O_2)OR^4$; $-S(O_2)OR^4$; or $-S(O)OR^4$; wherein R^4 is hydrogen or a cleavage permitting group;

X is a direct bond; a straight or branched alkylene group having two to six carbon atoms (preferably C_1 to C_3), one or more of which can be replaced by O, S, or N heteroatoms, provided that there is no heteroatom in a position α or β to Y; phenylene; a five or six membered heteroarylene having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, and N, provided that neither Y or $R^3R^2C=C(R^1)$- is bonded to a heteroatom; and

R^1, R^2, and R^3 are independently selected from, hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, carboxy, halogen, cyano, isocyanato, C_1-C_6 hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, C_1-C_6 haloalkyl, C_1-C_6 cyanoalkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6 carboxyalkyl, aryl, hydroxyaryl, haloaryl, cyanoaryl, C_1-C_6 alkoxyaryl, carboxyaryl, nitroaryl, or a group -X-Y; wherein C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_1-C_6 alkoxy groups are either linear or branched and up to Q-2 carbon atoms of any C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, wherein Q is the total number of ring carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl group, are independently replaced with O, S, or N heteroatoms; with the proviso that neither doubly-bonded carbon atom is directly bonded to O or S; and wherein aryl is phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl group having up to three heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N.

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur E. Jackson
Registration No. 34,354

DECHERT
Princeton Pike Corporate Center
PO Box 5218
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5218
(609) 620-3254

137164.1.07